



Welcome to the April edition of the Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club Newsletter! We'll try to keep you up-to-date with what's happening this month and any future events we're planning or are aware of. This newsletter is automatically distributed to club members, prospective future students who have reached out to us in the last year, and other interested amateur operators in the region. If you do not wish to receive these monthly newsletters, let us know and we can remove you from our distribution list. Alternatively, if you are not included on the mailing list, but would like to receive a copy of our newsletter, please reach out to our secretary.

April Club Meeting - April 2nd, Stratford Town Center

I think they say April showers bring May flowers, but I'm hoping April will be kind to us and give us a few sunny days in between. Our next monthly meeting is coming up this Tuesday, April 2nd, at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you're a licensed radio operator and would like to become a member, or you're perhaps interested in becoming licensed and would like to find out more about us and the hobby, then please come and join us. We would love to meet you. For anyone who would like to become a member, membership dues are \$30 for 2024 for those who are not currently members of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). For RAC members, it's \$20 for the year. Our students and graduates from the fall 2023 and the current spring 2024 classes are automatically members of the club. Our meetings run from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. (1900-2100) in the Southport room at the Stratford Town Center on Shakespeare Drive. Alongside monthly club reports we usually enjoy an information exchange. Over the last few months we've learned about alternate power options for radio operations, 3D printing, SDRs, HF antennas in the field, the April 2024 solar eclipse, and Parks on the Air Activations. Last month, we were introduced to the topic of contesting.

Spring 2024 Basic Licensing Course - Canadian Red Cross, Charlottetown

By now, the Spring 2024 basic licensing course is well on its way. It started March 18th and will be running over 8 weeks until May 9th, 2024 with two sessions a week (Mondays and Thursdays). We have another great group of students, this time 12 in total. A big thank you for studying with us, and an even bigger thank you to all the teachers who are making this course possible: Brent VY2HF, Bill VY2WM, Joel VY2KW, Ricardo VY2AN, and Aaron VY2EK. Thank you also to the Red Cross for allowing us to use their premises.

The first round of exams should take place at some point later in May. We'll keep you posted!

RCAF Event - April 2024

The 1st of April 2024 marks 100 years of service for the Royal Canadian Air Force as a distinct military element here in Canada. In honour of this centennial celebration the Western Prince Edward Island Amateur Radio Club (VY2WPE) is sponsoring the special callsign VY2RCAF for the entire month of April. Other registered and confirmed callsigns for this event include VE3RCAF, VE9RCAF, and VE7RCAF.

The VY2 "Royal Canadian Air Force" 2024 special event operators will be Dave (VY2FU) on Phone, Doug (VY2DS) on FT8, Bill (VY2LI) on RTTY, Bob (VY2NX) on Phone, and Lowell (VY2OX) on CW. For more information, please email vy2rcaf@gmail.com

Total Solar Eclipse over PEI - April 8th



The event of a lifetime is about to happen! On Monday, April 8th, 2024, western PEI will be in the path of the total solar eclipse.

The club has decided not to plan anything official, but a number of our members will be heading west to the Mill River Resort. The Summerside and Charlottetown Astronomy Clubs have invited the public to join them there from 1 p.m. onwards to enjoy watching the eclipse. It looks like they have run out of eclipse glasses, so don't forget to bring your own, if you decide to join them:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/total-solar-eclipse-viewing-experience-tickets-866773632267?aff=odtdtcreator>

World Amateur Radio Day - April 18th

On April 18th, 2024, the RAC is organizing a special event to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On this day 99 years ago, in 1925, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was formed in Paris, France.

The RAC official station call signs are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC, and **VY2RAC**. Anyone contacting one of these stations will be eligible for a special commemorative certificate. <https://www.rac.ca/operating/world-amateur-radio-day-april-18/>.

NEAR-Fest - April 25th & 26th, 2024, Deerfield, New Hampshire

The New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR-Fest) is nearly upon us again. This is a large all-things-ham event that attracts visitors from all over North America. By all accounts it's a fantastic event that is well worth attending, if you can. It starts on Thursday April 25th at 9:00 a.m. local time and finishes on Friday April 26th at 3:00 p.m. local time. For more information check out their site: <https://near-fest.com/>

SMART24 - May 4th, Springhill NS

The Westcumb ARC are again hosting their annual Symposium for Maritime Amateur Radio Technology (S.M.A.R.T.) at the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill NS, this time on Saturday May 4th. This is an exciting event with 10 classes as well as a flea market. It is definitely well worth a visit! For more information and to register check out this page: <https://sites.google.com/view/smartwestcumbarc/home>. The entrance fee is \$20 per person.

Meetings and Events Calendar - April

- 1: 2M Simplex net, at 8:00 P.M. (2000) on 146.550 MHz, hosted by Joel, VY2KW
- 2: Monthly club meeting
- 3, 10, 17, 24: Wednesday night 2M net, 7:30 P.M. (1930) on the VE1CRA repeater(s)
- 4, 11, 18, 25: Thursday night HF nets, on 3727 LSB (+/- QRM) at 7:00 P.M. (2000)
- 6, 13, 20, 27: Virtual Breakfast 2M nets, 8:00 A.M. (800) on the VE1CRA repeater(s)

Future Events

May 4: **SMART24**: <https://sites.google.com/view/smartwestcumbarc/home>

May 17-19: **Dayton Hamvention** <https://hamvention.org/>

June 22-23: **Field Day**

July 6: **Cape Bear Lighthouse Event** (currently in planning stage)

Help Us Out!

Do you have something you would like to contribute to this newsletter? Drop us an email at secretary@charlottetownarc.com.